

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 2, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Cambridge, Sunday, August 2, 1879. 1880 My dear Mrs. Bell:

I have delayed answering your letter to Alec offering to take charge of my babies until I had time to fully consider the proposal. I do not think I can make up my mind to leave Elsie even with you, where I know she will have all care and love but I will see what the doctor says before I decide definitely. The baby is however quite out of the question. I do not intend to wean her for several months yet, and even if I did the period just after weaning is too trying a one for me to feel justified in leaving her nor have I the confidence in Adelaide you suppose. I thought you knew I was trying to find another nurse in her place. She takes good care of Elsie but I do not at all like her management of her, and should be very sorry to leave her with her. I know how willingly you would take both babies and that Elsie would be happy with you, but she has never suffered from the long journeys in which nearly half her life has been spent and we do not see why she should now. However if the doctor dislikes the idea she shall not go.

Will not you and Mrs. David Bell come here with Mr. Bell and his brother. We should be so glad to have you come. Please let us know by telegraph if you can manage it as otherwise Alec wants to offer the rooms to some scientific friends. But remember he would much prefer his Mother and Aunt to them so please come if you can. I am hoping that Alleen at all events will come. We shall be so disappointed if she does not. Mr. Bell's room will be already for him and his brother if they really don't mind occupying the same room, and if you cannot come.

The Christening Thursday passed off very nicely. I wish you could all have been here to see how prettily both babies looked and behaved, and how lovely the flowers were. We

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had the whole fireplace in the large library 2 filled up with ferns in plants and over the mantelpiece lovely roses. Ferns and vases of flowers were also standing around the room. We had quite a number of intimate friends among them a great uncle of mine aged I think 88, the babies great great uncle. He is still very strong and active looking not a day older than the Uncle William I remember as a little girl of six-

Miss Fuller said that she had a friend who found she could hear by the Audiphone after several weeks persistent trial. She could not hear a sound at first but after a while she heard just a little and by long practice got to distinguish the different sounds and finally could hear nearly as well as anybody with its aid. Miss Fuller said she was almost totally deaf.

My Children's names are, Elsie May and Marion Hubbard but the baby is to be called Minnie so please do so. Today is very warm so I lose my baby and gain another little girl, I feel quite mournful.

With much love and hoping to see you soon,

Lovingly, Mabel.